



Community Networker

Rotary Club of Parramatta City, District 9675 | Meeting 4 August 2014



Our Danish Exchange Student has arrived!!

Frederik Andersen, our Danish exchange student, arrived at Sydney International Airport on Tuesday evening. He was met by his first host mother, Natalie Cowell, and his host brother, Bohdan.

Also on the flight were other exchange students who will be hosted by other Rotary clubs.

Club Updates



Raffles

The Community Chest and Christmas Tree Raffle is to be handled for our club by Ben Jackson. PP Keith said the raffle had been launched in 1992 to allow community organisations to raise their own money, using the services of Rotary, with the proceeds to be split 80 percent to the organisations, 20 percent to Rotary to cover prizes and other costs (the percentages later amended to 75/25). Till 2010, the raffle had now raised a total of \$13 million, of which \$2 million had gone to Rotary. The total raised was now about \$14 million. Through our efforts various community organisations had raised \$97,000 since 2001. Our own club had also raised \$39,000 during this period.

Having said that, Keith confirmed that our very own Secretary Joy had won the last raffle and he presented her with a cheque for \$16,000. Joy, graciously receiving the cheque, said her main problem had been unbelieving when the organisers of the raffle rang and gave her the news. Her initial response had been to laugh. "I don't win anything," she said.

Honours

District Governor Barry awarded Past President Keith a Paul Harris Fellow badge with two rubies, signifying he had given \$8,000 to the Rotary Foundation. That, it was calculated, had been enough to deliver 10,000 people from the hardships that would otherwise have afflicted them.

The Rotary Four-Way Test

The Four-Way Test challenges Rotarians, in everything they do, to ask themselves:

Of the things we say or do:

- 1 Is it the **TRUTH**?
- 2 Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
- 3 Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
- 4 Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

D9675 Presidents' Meeting

DG Barry Antees, still with crutches, held his first gig as District Governor District 9675, at the Liverpool Catholic Club on Friday night last week.

Among the many announcements was one relating to the 110th year of Rotary International. As part of that, in February next year, the whole of Mt Keira at Wollongong would be "lit up", whatever that means.

There were many announcements. A RAWCS conference would be held on August 16. A conference of Rotarians Against Malaria at Indooroopilly, Queensland, on August 23-24. A Gallipoli Peace Conference next year at Gallipoli. The District Conference in Canberra on November 14-16, "Our Youth, Our Future". Barry said they were all listed on the Rotary District 9675 website.

There were a number of references at the meeting to the critical question of membership. A Past President of the Parramatta Rotary Club, Liz Mackintosh, spoke about "putting more fun back into Rotary" and "looking for ways to inspire and enthuse" people about the movement. Jerry Duma, president of Holroyd Rotary Club, said the club had decided to hold meetings every two weeks and that on alternative weeks it would host "community forums", which would have invited speakers and would be open to members of the public. The forums had been promoted in the local media. The first forum would be on August 18.

Bruce Farquharson, chairman of the District Campaign Training and Personal Development Committee, said there was a move to encourage incoming officers of clubs to attend training days. The committee would start by running evenings for new members four times a year. He said that 140 new members had joined Rotary in the district in seven or eight months. An invitation was going out to all presidents to attend those sessions as well, he said. "We want to train them to be more confident in their Rotary careers."

Request for Our Service

Secretary Joy has received a request from the Cancer Council of New South Wales for volunteer drivers to transport cancer patients to and from Westmead Hospital. The Harris Park Community Centre has asked whether our club could provide a sausage sizzle between 10 am and 2 pm on Wednesday, September 24.

Our Guest

David Morris, a former diplomat with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, later a political adviser, then an investment adviser to government and now an international consultant, honoured us with his presence as a guest speaker, as national director of the Australian Republican Movement.

David, aged 50, father of two and resident of Summer Hill, has packed a lot into his life. During his 10-year diplomatic career, he served in Hungary and Ireland. He then became an adviser to the Tasmanian Government under the Premiership of Jim Bacon. He spent six years in that job, then did some more of the same for the Government of New South Wales before becoming an investment adviser to the NSW Department of State and Regional Affairs. He is now a consultant in building relationships between Australia and Asia and reliably informs us that there are Rotary Clubs in China, not many, mind you, but some, in Shanghai, Beijing and Quanzhou, as well as the Rotary Club of Hong Kong.

David was inspired while deputy ambassador in Dublin with the performance of the popularly-elected Irish president, Mary Robinson, who had been able to do so much good for her country, particularly in helping to resolve the intractable problems of Northern Ireland. He also saw while in Hungary the same role of presidents in the nations emerging from the Cold War.

The Case for the Republic

David Morris is part of a low-key movement aiming to persuade the Australian public over a long period of the virtues of being a republic. At the moment, with a monarchist prime minister and the republican question way back on the agenda, nothing is expected soon. When the issue was put to the electors in 1999, there was a “yes” vote of just over 45 percent and a “no” vote of almost 55 percent.

But David, after his observations overseas, concluded that real democracy could only be achieved when the public elected its own head of state. “I became more and more convinced that democracy is important and that we constantly monitor and make sure that our system of democracy matches the expectations of the people,” he said. “You don’t want to see it get out of kilter with people’s aspirations and dreams.”

He said Australia had built “one of the greatest societies on earth”. It had the 12th biggest economies in the world. It was a resources superpower. It had a population of 24 million, which was the



population of Great Britain in 1850. With that population, Britain was able to rule the world. Yet Australia, with far greater wealth and resources, was underrating itself in not even choosing its own head of state.

Australia had taken the initiative in so many other constitutional issues. It had invented votes for women, it had invented secret voting and an elected upper house. Representative government had been introduced a matter of months after the watershed of the Eureka Stockade. But Australians were largely unaware of these achievements.

Australians had developed their own values, such as egalitarianism and the "fair go" principle, which were unique to Australia. It also had multiculturalism, which one poll indicated was supported by 84 percent of Australians. Overwhelmingly, young people supported a republic, and the main reason was multiculturalism. That flew in the face of a British monarch representing while Anglo-Saxon hegemony in Australia which was becoming a thing of the past.

David envisaged a president, elected by the people, who would sit above the political process, or perhaps have some minor functions, to keep people

honest. Someone in this position was needed in a society which had fundamentally changed over the last half-century and would keep on changing. The example set by Professor Marie Bashir as a much-loved Governor of New South Wales showed how that role could be played out.

David said it was so inappropriate to be tied to a constitution drawn up during the reign of Queen Victoria, and it gave some substance to a stinging attack on Australia in a Shanghai newspaper (complaining about Tony Abbot kow-towing to the Japanese) that it was "clinging to the apron strings" of Britain and Europe. Australia was in the Asia-Pacific region, destined to become the biggest economy driving the world economy. It should stand up for itself and take its place as part of that region. Instead, it had turned its back. Tony Abbot had reintroduced knighthoods and had made his oath of allegiance not to the people of Australia but to the Queen.

Dates for Diaries

12 SEPTEMBER.

Northcott "Walk With Me" Barbecue.

21 SEPTEMBER.

UN Day of Peace.

12 OCTOBER.

Triathlon Pink Barbecue, Parramatta Park.

18 OCTOBER.

Bunnings Barbecue, North Parramatta.

20 OCTOBER

"My Career, Your Career" seminar, Northcott, 1 Fennell St, North Parramatta

14-16 NOVEMBER

District Conference,